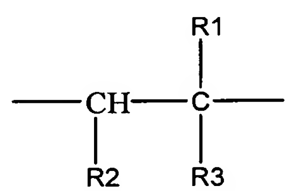
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original; Withdrawn) A resin composition for optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

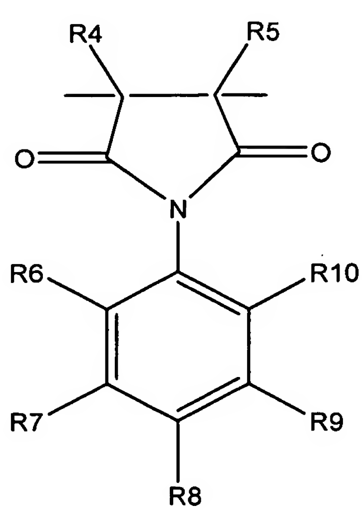
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

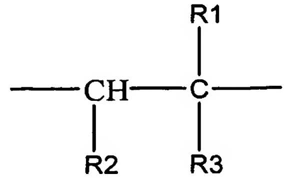
wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being 20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6.

2. (Original; Withdrawn) The resin composition for optical film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer (a) is at least one selected from the group consisting of an N-phenylmaleimide-isobutene copolymer and an N-(2-methylphenyl)maleimide- isobutene copolymer.

3. (Original) An optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

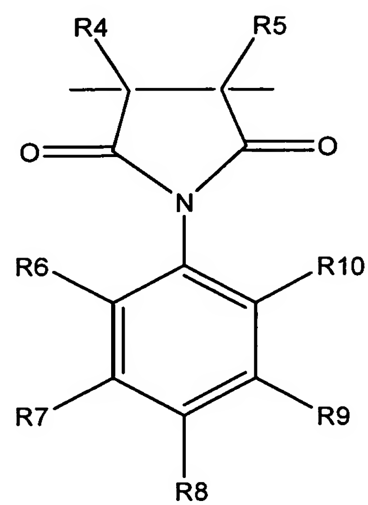
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being

20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6.

4. (Currently Amended) The optical film as claimed in claim 3, wherein the copolymer (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an N-phenylmaleimide-isobutene copolymer and an N-(2-methylphenyl)maleimide-isobutene copolymer.

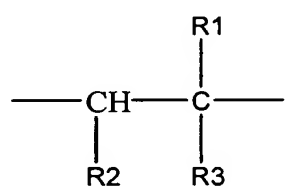
5. (Original) The optical film as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein when a stretching direction within a film plane is defined as an x-axis, a direction within a film plane and perpendicular to the x-axis is defined as a y-axis, a direction outside the film plane and perpendicular to the stretching direction is defined as a z-axis, a refractive index in the x-axis direction is defined as nx, a refractive index in the y-axis direction is defined as ny, and a refractive index in the z-axis direction is defined as nz, the relationship among three-dimensional refractive indexes is (nz≥ny>nx) or (ny≥nz>nx).

6. (Original) The optical film as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein when a stretching direction is defined as an x-axis and a y-axis within a film plane, a direction outside the film plane and perpendicular to the x-axis and y-axis is defined as a z-axis, a refractive index in the x-axis direction is defined as nx, a refractive index in the y-axis direction is defined as ny, and a refractive index in the z-axis direction is defined as nz, the relationship among three-dimensional refractive indexes is (nz>ny≥nx) or (nz>nx≥ny).

7. (Original; Withdrawn) A process of producing an optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

forming a resin composition for optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

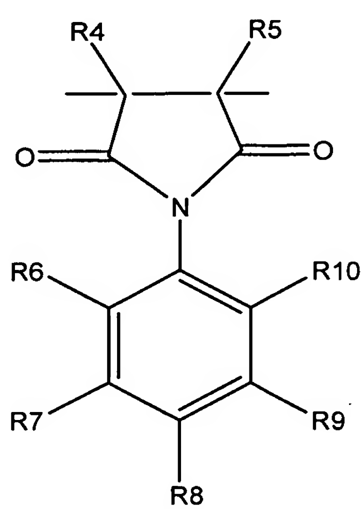
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent

hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5 × 103 to 5 × 106; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being 20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5 × 103 to 5 × 106

into a film; and

stretching and orienting the film at a temperature in the range of from [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) – 20°C] to [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) + 20°C].

8. (Original; Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stretching and orientation are uniaxial stretching and orientation.

9. (Original; Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stretching and orientation are biaxial stretching and orientation.

10. (Original; Withdrawn) A retardation film comprising an optical film as claimed in claim 3.

11. (New) The optical film as claimed in claim 3, obtained by forming said resin composition into a film and stretching and orienting said film.

12. (New) The optical film as claimed in claim 11, wherein said stretching and orienting of said film occurs at a temperature in the range of from [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) – 20 °C] to [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) + 20 °C].

13. (New) The optical film as claimed in claim 11, wherein said stretching is uniaxial stretching.

14. (New) The optical film as claimed in claim 11, wherein said stretching is biaxial stretching.

15. (New) The optical film as claimed in claim 3, wherein said copolymer (a) consists essentially of said units of formulae (i) and (ii).

BASIS FOR AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 11-15 are supported, for example, by the specification at pages 4 and 5, at page 15, 1st full paragraph, at pages 16 and 17 and by the original claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 2 and 7-9 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.